

IMPACT OF FISHING INDUSTRY ON SOCIAL ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE PEOPLE IN SAMFYA DISTRICT, LUAPULA PROVINCE, ZAMBIA

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Abstract

The purpose of the study was to establish the impact of the fishing industry, on the social economic life of people in Samfya district. The target population included headmen and fishermen of Samfya District, employees of National Archives of Zambia (NAZ) and Departments of fisheries in Samfya among whom 48 respondents were selected. Stratified random sampling was used to select respondents. Data were collected using structured and open – ended interviews, Focused Group discussions and through observations. Qualitative data were analysed using content analysis while quantitative data were analysed in excel environment. The study revealed that the economy of Samfya district depended largely on fishing and fisheries related activities, which have over the years shaped the people's lifestyle. The findings also revealed that most people lived in permanent fishing villages, which has exerted unsustainable pressure on the fisheries and leading to the depletion of fish stocks. It was further observed that as fish catches reduced, some enterprising people started investing their resources in other productive sectors of the economy where their investments yielded maximum returns. This led to social differentiation among the people of Samfya district on the one hand and social stratification among fishermen on the other. The study recommended therefore that, government should introduce fishing licences that specified the type of selective fishing gears that could be used sustainably in different water bodies. The Ministry of Fisheries should educate fishermen to form fishing cooperatives to help determine fish prices and diversify the fish farming. Furthermore, the study recommended that government should set up fish hatcheries in Samfya to enhance constant restocking of fisheries during the closed fishing season.

Key words: social economic productivity, social differentiation, lucrative, restocking.

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